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Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PREL, FR

SUBJECT: GREECE, TURKEY, CYPRUS: CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

1. IN COURSE OF TOUR D'HORIZON AUGUST 10, PRIOR TO RETURN FOR HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE, AMBASSADOR DE LABOULAYE RAISED RECENT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST.

2. DE LABOULAYE FIRST INQUIRED ABOUT VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTRY SECGEN ELEKDAG THIS WEEK. VEST EXPLAINED THAT ELEKDAG WAS IN WASHINGTON IN IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF CONGRESSIONAL VOTES TO LIFT EMBARGO TO DISCUSS WITH USG OUR BASES IN TURKEY, TURKISH ECONOMIC
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SITUATION, CYPRUS, AND GREECE-TURKEY RELATIONS. CONCERNING U.S. BASES IN TURKEY, VEST SAID A LARGE DEGREE OF COMMONALITY EXISTED. WE EXPECTED TO WORK OUT VERY QUICKLY, PERHAPS BY SOME SORT OF TEMPORARY GOT DECREE, ARRANGEMENTS PERMITTING U.S. AT LEAST TO BEGIN PROMPT REHABILITATION OF FACILITIES. AT THE SAME TIME THIS WORK PROGRESSES, WE INTEND TO RENEGOTIATE AGREEMENTS

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REGULATING USE OF THE BASES. IN SUM, ON THIS ISSUE
ATMOSPHERE IS NOW VERY COMFORTABLE. ON THE QUESTION OF
TURKEY'S ECONOMY, UNDER SECRETARY COOPER HAD MET WITH
ELEKDAGAND DISCUSSED AT LENGTH CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

ELEKDAG WAS ALSO HAVING MEETINGS AT IMF. CONCERNING
CYPRUS, ELEKDAG REITERATED WELL KNOWN TURKISH ATTITUDES,
I.E., TURKEY IS PREPARED TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE GREEK
SIDE IN DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSALS ALREADY ON THE TABLE.
IN RESPONSE TO DE LABOULAYE'S QUESTION, VEST SAID WE DID
NOT ANTICIPATE ANY MORE PRE-NEGOTIATION MOVES BY TURKEY
PRIOR TO RESUMING INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS.

3. ON SUBJECT OF GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS, VEST SAID
ELEKDAG GAVE US SOME FILL-IN ON TURKEY'S DISCUSSIONS
WITH GREECE ABOUT WHICH ELEKDAG WAS RATHER OPTIMISTIC.
VEST NOTED THAT GREEK REPORTS ON SAME CONVERSATIONS
PARALLELED AND, THEREFORE, TENDED TO CONFIRM THIS VIEW.
IN SHORT, FOR FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME THERE APPEARED
SOME REASON FOR HOPE IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

4. VEST CONTINUED THAT NOW USG IS CONSIDERING HOW TO
APPROACH KYPRIANOU. KYPRIANOU IS SAYING THAT THE NEXT
STEP IS TO TAKE THIS ISSUE TO THE UN, WHICH IN U.S.
VIEW, WILL NOT ACHIEVE ANYTHING. USG IS DEBATING HOW
TO INDUCE KYPRIANOU TO REALLY GRAPPLE WITH THE PROBLEM
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AND AVOID ANY INVOLVEMENTS AT THE UN.

5. ON THIS POINT, DE LABOULAYE ASKED WHETHER U.S. STILL
INTENDS TO INVOLVE WALDHEIM IN THE TALKS. VEST CONFIRMED
U.S. INTENTION TO WORK THROUGH UN AUSPICES, REINFORCING
ROLE OF WALDHEIM WHEREVER POSSIBLE. IN RESPONSE TO
QUESTION, VEST SAID WE ARE NOT THINKING OF SENDING ANY
SPECIFIC MISSION TO CYPRUS. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER,
THAT NOTHING HAD BEEN DECIDED YET; WE MAY DECIDE TO SEND
SOMEONE OUT TO TALK TO KYPRIANOU BEFORE UNGA CONVENES TO
REASSURE THE CYPRIOTS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EMBARGO
VOTE.

6. DE LABOULAYE OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE ELEMENTS FOR A
GREEK-TURKISH COMPROMISE IN THE VARIOUS AGEAN ISSUES,
BUT GREEKS DO NEED SOME REASSURING ACTION BY USG TO BALANCE
IMPACT ON GREECE OF LIFTING EMBARGO ON TURKEY. DE
LABOULAYE EMPHASIZED THE DIFFICULT DOMESTIC POLITICAL
SITUATION WHICH KARAMANLIS FACES AND THE NEED TO HELP
KARAMANLIS, FOR EXAMPLE, DOING SOMETHING FOR HIS ARMY,
E.G., SATISFACTORY ADJUSTMENT OF THE NATO COMMAND
STRUCTURES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

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7. VEST CONCLUDED BY EMPHASIZING THAT WHEN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ON THIS ISSUE IS COMPLETED, THERE WILL BE SOMETHING FOR BOTH GREEK AND TURKISH SIDES. HE NOTED THAT THE FRIENDS OF GREECE AND TURKEY HAD BEEN MORE THAN

GENEROUS WITH THEIR SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT THEIR RESPECTIVE BENEFITS MIGHT INCLUDE. VANCE

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